PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FORMER COTTONWOOD MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CROSS-BURNING

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on August 14, 2003, Thaddeus Ray Carroll, D.O.B. August 16, 1973, formerly of Cottonwood, Arizona, pled guilty to violating the Fair Housing Act, in federal district court in Phoenix, Arizona. Under the criminal portion of the Fair Housing Act, it is a crime to willfully intimidate and interfere with, or attempt to intimidate or interfere with, the right of a person to occupy a dwelling because of the person's race or color.

Thaddeus Carroll, had been charged with violating Title 42 of the United States Code, Section 3631. Carroll pled guilty to constructing and dousing a wooden cross with gasoline, placing it in the fence in front of the residence of an African-American woman, and igniting it on April 19, 1999. The defendant admitted in court today that the government could prove beyond a reasonable doubt that he did the aforementioned acts because the victim was black and because she was occupying a dwelling in Cottonwood, Arizona.

(MORE)

The United States Attorney for the District of Arizona Paul Charlton states, "This case underscores our commitment to aggressively prosecute those who are motivated by hate and who violate the civil rights of others."

A conviction for violating 42 U.S.C. § 3631 carries a maximum penalty of ten years, a $250,000.00 fine or both.

Sentencing is set before Judge Earl H. Carroll on November 3, 2003.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Cottonwood Police Department.

The prosecution is being handled by Ronald R. Gallegos, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona, and Adriana Vieco, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington D.C.

CASE NUMBER: CR-02-00119-01-PCT-EHC
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